Planning Inspectorate

**Application by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Whitestone Solar Farm**

**Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2):**

| Hearing | Date and Time | Location |
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| **Issue Specific Hearing 2 on Environmental Matters** | **Thursday 12 November 2026**<br>**Hearing starts at 10.00am**<br>Registration and seating available at venue from 9.30am and virtual registration process from 9.30am | **1925 Suite, Asseal New York Stadium, New York Way, Rotherham, S60 1FJ**<br>and<br>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams |

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing.**

2. **Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing 2**

3. **Matters for discussion at this Hearing**

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| 3.1 | **Traffic and Transport**<br><br>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-011], [APP-012], [APP-042], [AS-011], [AS-025], [AS-058], [APP-144] and [APP-145].<br><br>The Examining Authority (ExA) will ask the applicant to give a ten minute summary of its case with regard to traffic and transport, including<br>a) National Highways discussions and protective provisions<br>b) HGV routing and likely construction effects on the highway network<br>c) The approach to baseline and technical data<br>d) Proposed mitigation measures<br><br>The ExA will then invite interested parties (IPs) to comment on the Applicant's position in respect of interrelated projects. |

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| | The ExA will then ask any questions it may have in respect to the oral and written cases made by the applicant and other IPs. |
| 3.2 | **Other Projects and Co-ordination**<br>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-040], [APP-055], [APP056], [APP-057], [APP-071], [APP-072], [APP-073], [APP-092], [APP-155], [PD1-014], Harmony Energy Ltd [RR-0966], JJS1 Limited [RR-1233] and ERG UK Holding Limited [RR-0796] relating to BESS developments and the Penny Hill Wind Farm; National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [RR-1966]<br><br>The ExA will ask the applicant to provide an update on the status of other projects which interrelate with the proposed development, including:<br>a) The approach to continuing dialogue with the promoters or operators of these projects;<br>b) Any required protective provisions to be included in the draft Development Consent Order<br>c) Mitigation measures to ensure the operation of and access to interrelated projects.<br><br>The ExA will then invite IPs to comment on the applicant's position in respect of interrelated projects.<br><br>The ExA may then ask any questions it may have in respect to the oral and written cases made by the Applicant and other IPs. |
| 3.3 | **Need, Site Selection, Alternatives and Cumulative Effects**<br>Documents that may be referred to during the discussion of this item: [APP-040], [APP-041], [APP-048], [APP-056], [APP-069], [APP-092] and [APP-154].<br><br>The ExA will ask the applicant to give a ten minute summary of its case with regard to need, site selection, alternatives and cumulative considerations, including<br>a) The identification of site requirements and BESS considerations<br>b) Generating capacity and the approach to overplanting<br>c) The approach to the consideration of alternatives<br>d) The relationship between existing and planned developments<br><br>The ExA will then invite IPs to comment on the applicant's position in respect of interrelated projects.<br><br>The ExA will then ask any questions it may have in respect to the oral and written cases made by the applicant and other IPs. |

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**4. Review of issues and actions arising**

**5. Any other business**

**6. Close of Hearing**

**Purpose of ISH**

The main purpose of ISH2 is to undertake an examination of various environmental impact matters arising from consideration of the application and representations. The focus will be on gaining an overview of key elements of the application as a framework for more detailed consideration as the examination progresses. ISH2 is being held to hear evidence relating to matters in respect of the following topics:

- Traffic and Transport
- Other Projects and Co-ordination
- Need, Site Selection, Alternatives and Cumulative Effects

**Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing:

| **Agenda Item 3.1 Traffic and Transport** | **Agenda Item 3.2 Other Projects and Co-ordination** | **Agenda Item 3.3 Need, Site Selection, Alternatives and Cumulative Effects** |
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| • Applicant<br>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council<br>• City of Doncaster Council<br>• North East Derbyshire District Council<br>• National Highways<br>• A representative of a Parish Council with an interest in this item<br>• Interested parties who submitted comments on this topic | • Applicant<br>• Harmony Energy Limited<br>• JJS1 Limited<br>• ERG UK Holding Limited<br>• National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc<br>• A local authority or parish council with an interest in this item<br>• Interested parties who submitted comments on this topic | • Applicant<br>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council<br>• City of Doncaster Council<br>• North East Derbyshire District Council<br>• A representative of a Parish Council with an interest in this item<br>• Interested parties who submitted comments on this topic |

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However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the Whitestone Solar Farm project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

**Registration process**

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at **10.00am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9.30am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

**Procedure at ISH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.